For over a quarter of a century Esther Bruns taught elementary school children to make music.

It’s an effort she isn’t ready to stop. In order to help children learn about music and other fine arts, Bruns has established the Bruns Fund for the Fine Arts through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“I’m very excited,” Bruns said. “In the past five or six years you could see a need for this in the arts because the funding isn’t there. You ask parents to do money raising project after money raising project and after a while you are embarrassed because they get hit up so much.”

Bruns served as a music teacher for 33 1/2 years, retiring in 2005 from Farmingdale Elementary School in Pleasant Plains. She remains active in teaching music, serving as a substitute teacher, conducting private music lessons and teaching a music class for homeschooled children. Her passion for music and the arts and how they enhance children’s lives comes through when she talks.

“It’s such a benefit for kids to be in the arts, all the studies show that, especially for the kids that aren’t athletically inclined,” Bruns said. “It’s good for all kids. It teaches history, math and several subjects.”

Bruns will serve as the advisor to the fund, which will provide one gift each year to a fine arts program. The gifts won’t be limited to the Pleasant Plains area or to music, but Bruns would like to focus on elementary programs.

“My heart is still in the elementary school, I won’t beat around the bush about that,” Bruns said. “It’s harder for the elementary programs to be funded because they aren’t out in the limelight with concerts. … As they get older they are showcased more than the elementary kids.”

Upon retiring Bruns received a monetary gift from supportive parents in the Farmingdale school district. Part of the gift was used as a catalyst for the creation of the fund. Bruns has also talked with her family about how she wants future gifts to be delivered.

“I’ve already got my family involved. I told them, ‘No more birthday gifts, you just give to the fund,’ ” Bruns said.